

FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMODORES ASSOCIATION

fccact.org

2/24/2015

**To: Sen. Scott Frantz; Rep. Fred Camillo
State Capitol, Hartford, CT 06106**

Subject: Committee Bill No. 699

Our organization was founded in 1993 and represents sixteen boating and yacht clubs with over 5,000 members, including more than 1,500 junior sailors and 3,000 adult boaters.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our strongest support for Bill No. 699 to establish “Emily’s law”, an act establishing a minimum age of sixteen for towing any person by vessel and requiring the completion of a safe towing course prior to engaging in such towing by vessel.

Based on feedback from our member clubs flag officers and past commodores, we recommend the following additional considerations:

A distinction be specified between towing and/or pulling one or more individuals and towing one or more vessels, when there is insufficient wind for a sailing regatta and/or emergency situations, such as severe weather or a distressed vessel or passenger.

Development of an interactive video module with an on-line version of the course in safe towing. This would offer an opportunity for boating applicants to virtually practice approaching a person in the water, towing/pulling someone on skis, tubes, or towing a boat. On-line video technology is widely accepted today and this ‘real’ practice would make a significant difference in understanding what actually happens between boats and people.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our support and suggestions for this bill. We strongly urge action be taken to enact this proposed legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

**John Craine
Chairman
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